



## GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

January 27, 2009

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720  
(573) 751-3222

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI:

The State of Missouri and its citizens face unprecedented uncertainty as a result of the national economic crisis. To solve the problems facing our people and our state, we must come together across party and ideological lines to get Missourians working. My vision is a healthy, educated, working Missouri that is prepared to compete and succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 carefully balances substantial cuts to the government infrastructure with across-the-board maintenance of essential services Missourians have a right to expect from those who serve them. Moreover, in certain carefully selected areas chosen for their ability to strengthen Missouri's economy in both the short and long term, the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget proposes new investments that will create the jobs of the future, provide a world-class education, expand access to health care, and build a more efficient and effective state government.

Balancing the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget required an exhaustive review of state programs and expenditures, with more than \$1 billion in overall core reductions (including more than \$250 million in reductions of general revenue spending) and the elimination of more than 1,300 positions. These decisions reduce the size of government to a level that can be sustained with foreseeable revenues while providing, without interruption, those services Missourians expect and demand. This smaller, more flexible government will ensure that the state can move forward despite economic uncertainty and empower unemployed Missourians to get back to work. This budget also includes reasonable assumptions, based on the best data available, concerning resources Missouri may receive to help maintain services and strengthen our economy. Our ability to responsibly manage the opportunities created by any funds received above the levels assumed may well determine the economic future of this state and its people, as well as define the character of leadership this government has and can summon in times of critical decision.

The Fiscal Year 2010 Budget will:

- Invest in Missouri's workforce and create jobs with the Show Me JOBS initiative;
- Prioritize support for K-12 education, including full funding of the Foundation Formula;
- Guarantee no tuition increases at Missouri's public colleges and universities;
- Expand access to higher education through implementation of the Missouri Promise Program, providing qualified students a pathway to a 4-year degree, tuition free;
- Maintain vital health care services while expanding access to these services to an additional 62,000 Missourians, including more than 27,000 uninsured children; and
- Make state government more efficient and effective.

This is a new day for Missouri. As your Governor, I will work every day to help make our bright future a reality for all Missouri families. The Fiscal Year 2010 Budget provides a roadmap to accomplish this, but the challenges facing our state, our communities and our families are too great to reject any solution merely on the basis of authorship. I look forward to considering all solutions offered in the spirit of problem solving and public service. I am deeply honored and humbled by the opportunity to lead our state during this critical time. I look forward to finding the common ground on which we can work together to create new jobs, make health care more accessible, protect consumers, and educate our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremiah W. Nixon".

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor